

From: Patrick W.
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 1:51pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Department of Justice,

It is an honor to be able to add my voice to the reams of letters you must be receiving regarding this incredibly long-lasting and unbelievably frivolous lawsuit filed on behalf of Microsoft's competitors.

The merits of Microsoft's arguments are clear: this highly successful company has innovated in the tradition of the best American companies in our history. Microsoft has been attacked in the courtroom only because its competitors were unable to effectively battle in the marketplace.

If we believe in free market capitalism, then we should avoid letting this settlement be knocked off-course by the January 22 lawsuit filed by America Online (AOL) and its subsidiary, Netscape Communications. This lawsuit is asking the Federal Government to award a company that already received \$10 Billion from AOL in its purchase, punitive damages against a technologically superior browser -- Microsoft's Internet Explorer, just because Microsoft gave it away. There is nothing illegal about doing this!

If you want, you can open any search engine on the Internet and type "Free Browsers", and you will find Netscape giving its browser away, just like it did all those years ago. You would have found free ones out there in the past, too. I was doing telephone technical support for an Internet Service Provider, and it was my JOB to find an easy, free solution for the customer to use a web browser, if they didn't have one. I tell you from experience: I tested every version of Netscape Navigator browser, and they ALL were inferior to Microsoft's Internet Explorer. Everyone in this industry KNOWS this, and that is why they are not reacting with more disdain at Netscape's collapse of market share. Innovation, NOT litigation, benefits the consumer, and they chose a better browser.

Please allow this settlement to go through, and give

our US economy a chance to take off again--and allow
the greatest American success story company to
revitalize our economy and revolutionize world
technology.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Pat Walters
Sultan, Washington

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